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June 5, 2013

*****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*****

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First Lady and Community Partners Host Eat. Read. Grow. With Celebrity Readers

CHEYENNE, Wyo. – First Lady Carol Mead is working with a coalition of Wyoming businesses, non-profits, and state agencies to implement a new program in Cheyenne. Eat. Read. Grow. is modeled after programs elsewhere that provides a meal, a bag of groceries, information about family resources and a children's book to families. Cheyenne's inaugural event is tonight; similar events have taken place in Casper and Cody. Wyoming Secretary of State Max Maxfield and best-selling Wyoming author, C.J. Box, will be on hand to read to children and their families at the event.

"I am so grateful to Secretary Maxfield, C.J. Box, and all of the partners who are coming together to make this a special event to benefit Wyoming families," First Lady Carol Mead said. "Eat. Read. Grow. is a program that can be expanded in every Wyoming community to encourage families to spend quality time together over meals and good books."

Eat. Read. Grow. is supported by Taco John's International, Johnson Junior High School, Scholastic Inc.; Food Bank of the Rockies, Ellbogen Foundation, #1 Properties, Wyoming Department of Family Services, Wyoming Department of Workforce Services, After School for Kids Program, Kiwanis Club of Cheyenne, Wyoming Children's Action Alliance, Laramie County School District #1, Raising Readers in Wyoming, Wyoming Head Start, Collaborative Connections, Wyoming Kids First, Cent\$ible Nutrition, Cheyenne Association of Evangelicals, and Future Business Leaders of America at East High School. This inaugural event is aimed at children from Arp and Cole Elementary Schools who participate in the After School for Kids Program. A second event is planned for August 24 in Lion's Park in conjunction with the Convoy of Hope.

Mrs. Mead has devoted her time as First Lady to children's issues. She is working to advance early childhood literacy , encourage kids to live healthy lifestyles and avoid risky behaviors like alcohol and drug use, promote the arts among young people,.

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